

Morse Urges U.S. Change Policy in South Vietnam ...

A WHITEWASH CAMPAIGN was launched Monday in Washington in a desperate attempt to clear the State Department and the Pentagon of complicity in the savage assaults on Buddhists in South Vietnam and to prepare the way for replacing the dictatorship of President Ngo Dinh Diem with a dictatorship of South Vietnamese generals.

The White House hopes to control such a government through the 12 U.S. generals there who are backed up by 13,000 American troops and \$1,000,000 a day in expenditures.

The latest switch in State Department policy was predicted by Senator Wayne Morse (D-Ore) on Aug. 23 when he said that a change from "the dictatorship of Diem to a dictatorship of the military" appeared to be in the making.

This is the course that the State Department announced publicly three days later.

The latest policy switch was given on Monday to the press by Richard I. Phillips, State Department spokesman.

The statement declared that, contrary to previous information the State Department was now convinced that the murderous raids on the Buddhist pagodas last week were carried out by the special security police, that the South Vietnamese army knew nothing of the raids, and that the generals had supported martial law, under which scores of persons have been brutally assaulted and jailed, only because the generals thought this would quiet the situation and help the anti-communist war effort.

The purpose of the statement, as the Washington correspondents reported frankly, was to rehabilitate the generals in the eyes of the world, preparatory to installing them as dictators.

Officials in Washington, Tad Szulc reported in Tuesday's N.Y. Times, "stressed that the exoneration of the military chiefs had become the principal United States propaganda line."

The State Department state-

'Restlessness'

A "RESTLESSNESS" is "developing at the grassroots of America in respect to foreign policy," Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore) told the Senate on Aug. 23.

Morse called, especially, for popular intervention around the Vietnam where, he warned, America is being compromised by the secret operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. He declared:

"I say to the American people: 'You are long overdue in making your demands crystal clear to Republican and Democratic administrations that you want an end to the growing trend toward sanctioning a continuation of what amounts to police procedure in a democracy.'"

A few days earlier, on Aug. 19, he had called for a re-examination of U.S. foreign policy in relation to Germany. Both of these speeches deserve the consideration of the American people, we believe.



made Aug. 23 on the Senate floor.

After describing the situation in South Vietnam, Morse said:

"I now call upon the Secretary of State, from the floor of the U.S. Senate, to give me a memorandum setting forth the history, from the very beginning of our relationships with South Vietnam, of steps that were taken that resulted in our becoming involved in South Vietnam."

"I want to know from the the Secretary of State how we got into the plight we are in; why we have a commitment to support a tyrant in South Vietnam."

"The time has come," Morse continued, "for the Secretary of State to prepare for the senior Senator from Oregon a thorough, detailed memorandum — containing a detailed account of the history of our participation in the internal affairs of South Vietnam."

Morse declared that if it were not for U.S. aid President Diem would not have lasted 90 days ago, "a long time in the past."

U.S. support of the Diem regime, a "policy that has failed," "has cost us billions of dollars — and the loss of precious American lives," Morse said.

Morse put the spotlight on the shadowy figures of the Central Intelligence Agency who have been operating in South Vietnam. He acknowledged that neither he nor the other Senators knew what the CIA was doing.

Morse quoted newspaper articles by Homer Bigart, in the New York Times, and of Robert Karr McCabe, in the New Leader, describing the role played by Col. Edward G. Lansdale, chief CIA agent in South Vietnam.

The support of the U.S. was thrown behind Ngo Dinh Diem, the President's brother and chief hatchetman of the dictatorship, under the Eisenhower administration.

Allen Dulles, then head of the CIA, and Dr. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, supported Ngo Dinh Diem, on the advice of Lansdale, over the

opposition of the then U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, Gen. J. Lawton Collins. When Frederick E. Nolting became U.S. ambassador two years ago he backed the Diem family to the hilt, on instructions from Washington.

Morse demanded that the operations of the CIA be barred "It is difficult to speak on the floor of the Senate on what the CIA policy really was because its Senators cannot find out. However, it is the responsibility of Congress to find out."

"As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee I cannot tell the Senate — nor can any other member of the committee — what the facts are, about the CIA policy in South Vietnam or anywhere else in the world."

Congress, Morse declared, has given the CIA unchecked power, and has "permitted the CIA to continue to exercise what appears, in fact, to amount to a police power in a democracy."

ment represented also an attempt to avoid responding to the demands which Sen. Morse had